

Message Text

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EB-11 OIC-04 AF-10 EA-11 NEA-14 SR-02 ORM-03 OMB-01

TRSE-00 ABF-01 SAJ-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

H-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12451

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, IT

SUBJECT: KEY ISSUES AT 29TH UNGA

REF: A. STATE 184584; B. 199150 (STATE)

1. EMBOFF MET AUGUST 28 WITH GIOVANNI VALENZA, CHIEF OF MFA'S UNITED NATIONS OFFICE, TO REVIEW KEY ISSUES EXPECTED TO BE RAISED AT THE FORTHCOMING UNGA AS PRESENTED IN REFTEL A. MEETING WAS LARGELY DEVOTED TO EXPLAINING US OBJECTIVES AND TACTICS AT FORTHCOMING UNGA AS WELL AS DESCRIBING US POSITIONS ON KEY ISSUES.

2. VALENZA WELCOMED MORE ACTIVE AND POSITIVE ROLE WHICH US INTENDS TO PLAY AT UNGA. GIVEN THE IDENTITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN ITALY AND THE UNITED STATES ON VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE KEY ISSUES, VALENZA SAID HE EXPECTED THAT THERE WOULD BE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ITALIAN AND US DELEGATIONS AS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROCEEDS.

3. ON SOUTH AFRICAN ISSUE, VALENZA STATED ITALY RECOGNIZES
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THE DANGER INVOLVED IN HAVING A MEMBER STATE EXPELLED FROM

THE UN BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION TO ITS INTERNAL POLICY. VALENZA SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT RECENTLY IN ROME WITH UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO WILL BE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MIGHT NOT FOLLOW RULINGS ON SOUTH AFRICAN ISSUE MADE BY PREVIOUS PRESIDENTS. ACCORDING TO VALENZA, WALDHEIM WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE ALGERIAN COULD EVENTUALLY BE CONVINCED TO FOLLOW ACTIONS OF HIS PREDECESSORS. VALENZA INDICATED THAT THE ITALIANS ARE LESS SANGUINE THAT THIS WILL BE THE CASE.

4. VALENZA AGREED THAT THE KHMER CREDENTIALS ISSUE WILL BE A DIFFICULT ONE AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE NOTED THAT ITALY HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GKR AND AS SUCH WILL CONTINUE TO VOTE AGAINST ANY RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD OUST IT FROM ITS UN SEAT.

5. ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES, VALENZA SAID ITALIANS AGREE THAT AT THE PRESENT DELICATE STATE OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS POLEMICAL DEBATE AT THE UN WOULD NOT BE USEFUL. EMBOFF ASKED THAT ITALIANS USE THEIR INFLUENCE WITH FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS TO SEEK TO AVOID SUCH DEBATE. ACCORDING TO VALENZA, ITALIANS UNDERSTAND THE URGENT NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR UNRWA AND BELIEVE THAT THE BEST SOURCE FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS ARAB GOVERNMENTS.

6. VALENZA SAID US COULD COUNT ON ITALIAN SUPPORT TO CONTROL UN SPENDING, SPECIFICALLY ON QUESTIONS OF A SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE UN BUDGET AND A PAY INCREASE FOR INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS. GIVEN THE DIFFICULT FINANCIAL SITUATION CONFRONTING ITALY, VALENZA SAID THE ITALIAN DELEGATION WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SUPPORT PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD GREATLY INCREASE THE UN BUDGET WITH A CONCURRENT NEED TO INCREASE NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS. VOLPE

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